

## Rothman Blasts GOP Budget for Having Wrong Priorities

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Congressman

NEWS RELEASE

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## ROTHMAN BLASTS GOP BUDGET FOR HAVING

### WRONG PRIORITIES

--Fiscally Irresponsible Republican Budget Slashes Taxes for the Wealthy While Cutting Vital Services for New Jersey Families--

(Washington, DC) -Congressman Steve Rothman today denounced the Republican budget moving through Congress, and urged his colleagues to oppose the proposed cuts to domestic spending programs.

"The Republican budget fails to reflect the values of the people of New Jersey," stated Rothman. "It includes deep cuts in services vital to our state's families. Republicans claim that these spending cuts are needed to pay for Hurricane Katrina, but, in reality, these spending cuts will be used to pay for tax cuts targeted to the wealthy: \$50 billion per year in tax cuts to individuals earning more than \$400,000 per year. Also, even with these spending cuts, the Republican budget increases our ever-growing deficit by more than \$100 billion!"

In addition, at a time when college tuition is skyrocketing, the Republican budget also slashes student loans by more than \$14 billion - increasing the costs for the 124,316 student borrowers in New Jersey by raising student loan interest rates and the fees on student borrowers who consolidate their loans.

Additionally, the proposed Republican budget cuts Medicaid by \$10 billion, which would have a severe impact on the 982,676 children, seniors and disabled people in New Jersey who rely on Medicaid for their health care. This cut also comes at a time when the number of families with no health insurance is also growing. Tragically, the Republican budget proposal allows states for the first time to charge the families of some Medicaid-eligible children co-payment fees and premiums for health services making healthcare unaffordable for many of them.

Shockingly, the Republican budget also drastically reduces federal funding for child support enforcement, which will result in a reduction of \$842 million in child support collections in New Jersey over the next 10 years. This will reduce the child support payments received by single parents who are struggling to provide for their children.

Under the budget House Republicans are fighting to enact, funding for reading and math assistance would also be cut by \$11.7 million for the disadvantaged students of New Jersey. In addition, under the House Republican budget, funding for child care assistance would be cut by \$1,540,000 for the working families of New Jersey.

Finally, in order to pay for their additional tax cuts for the wealthy, Republicans are calling for cutting a wide range of other vital services - ranging from education, to child care, to housing, to environmental protection - below this year's level, after adjusting for inflation.

"Indefensibly, the budget that the House Republicans are trying to enact will cause hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans, men, women, and children to suffer, so that Republicans can give even more tax breaks to America's richest individuals," said Rothman. "Together, America can do better than this morally and fiscally repugnant budget...the Republican majority should work with House Democrats to enact a budget that reflects the priorities of the mainstream of the American people."

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